(v) The Ministry has framed a Model State Mineral Policy and circulated it to all State Governments on 12.10.2009 with the request to finalise and adopt a Mineral Policy as per their priority and requirements.

(vi) Procedures for revision under Section 30 of the MMDR Act, 1957 are being streamlined to reduce delays in disposal of revision applications.

(vii) All instances of corruption and illegal practices coming to notice are taken up with State Governments with utmost seriousness and followed up.

Hoda Committee recommendations

1935. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that amended Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulations) (MMDR) Act is in contravention of the recommendations of Hoda Committee;

(b) if so, the details of the contraventions, specifically for setting up of the Empowered Committee; and

(c) what is the status of implementation of the recommendations made by Hoda Committee for constituting the Empowered Committee comprising representatives from various Ministries/industries?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 has not been amended recently. It was last amended in 1999.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Based on the recommendations of the Hoda Committee, Government have announced the new National Mineral Policy, 2008. Separately, a Coordination-cum-Empowered Committee has been constituted in the Central Government on 4.3.2009 which includes representatives from Ministries of Mines, Environment and Forest, Defence, Home Affairs, Steel, Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Indian Bureau of Mines and Geological Survey of India. The first meeting of the Committee was held on 24.7.2009.

Corruption in allotment of mining rights

1936. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rampant corruption in allotting mining rights/licences for mining in mineral fields has come to light recently involving politicians; and

(b) if so, the details of steps proposed to be taken to make allotments of mining rights transparent and corruption free?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) Reports of this nature have recently come to the notice of the Ministry of Mines.

The State Governments are the owner of the minerals located within their respective boundaries. They grant the mineral concessions [Reconnaissance Permit (RP), Prospecting Licence (PL) and Mining Lease (ML)] under the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957. Prior approval of the Central Government is required under Section 5 (1) of the Act for grant of RP, PL and ML in respect of the minerals specified in Parts 'B' and 'C' of the First Schedule to the Act. Subsequent to the prior approval of the Central Government, mining leases etc. are executed by the State Governments with the mining agencies after they obtain all statutory clearances and approvals.

The Ministry of Mines is conscious of the need to have a transparent and efficient system for processing the mineral concession cases. In pursuance of the National Mineral Policy, 2008, which *inter alia* enunciates adoption of quick and transparent procedures for grant of mineral concessions, the Ministry has taken several steps in this direction, as mentioned below:

(i) A Central Coordination-cum-Empowered Committee has been constituted in the Ministry of Mines to monitor and minimize delays in grant of approvals for mineral concessions. The Committee consists of the Central Ministries/Departments concerned and the Secretaries in charge of Mining and Geology in the States. The first meeting of the Committee was held in the Ministry on 24.7.2009. The second meeting of the Committee is scheduled to be held on 22.12.2009.

(ii) The State Governments have been advised to similarly constitute Coordination Committees at the State level.

(iii) The Ministry of Mines is using the internet services to being about more accessibility and transparency in processing the mineral concession proposals recommended by the State Governments. The website of the Ministry *(www.mines.nic.in)* provides all information on the current status of the applications for mineral concessions. These services are being further enhanced to track the process from approval for grant to execution of concession agreement.

(iv) The Ministry has, in consultation with the State Governments, issued detailed guidelines on 24.6.2009 in order to bring more clarity in processing the mineral concession proposals.

(v) The Ministry has framed a Model State Mineral Policy and circulated it to all State Governments on 12.10.2009 with the request to finalise and adopt a Mineral Policy as per their priority and requirements.

(vi) Procedures for revision under Section 30 of the MMDR Act, 1957 are being streamlined to reduce delays in disposal of revision applications.

(vii) All instances of corruption and illegal practices coming to notice are taken up with State Governments with utmost seriousness and followed up.

Leadership training programme for Muslim women

1937. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning leadership training programme for Muslim women across the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (b) Yes, Sir. A scheme for leadership development of minority women including Muslim women is under consideration for launching it during 2009-10.

Review of the working conditions of wakf boards

1938. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is reviewing the working conditions of wakf boards;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years; and

(c) the actual demands of each State especially in Andhra Pradesh in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No, Sir. However, Central Wakf Council has been established for the purpose of advising the Central Government on matters concerning the working of Wakf Boards and the due administration of Wakfs.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Committee for socially and economically backward classes

1939. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has constituted any committee to give suggestion for welfare of socially and economically backward classes among religious and linguistic minorities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof especially for minorities of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) The Government constituted the National Commission for Religious and linguistic Minorities (NCRLM), to suggest the criteria for identification of socially and economically backward sections among religious and linguistic minorities and to recommend measures for their welfare, including reservation, in education and government employment. The NCRLM report submitted in May, 2007, covers the entire country, including minorities in Andhra Pradesh.